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National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS)  
Explore Topics  
Search  
Search  
Clear Input  
For Everyone  
About About National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System  
What is Case Surveillance?  
Case Surveillance Modernization  
Infectious Disease Tables  
Non-Infectious Disease Data  
Technical Resource Center  
Case Surveillance in Action  
Contact Us  
View all  
Related Topics:  
NDC Application  
View All  
search  
close search  
search  
National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS)  
Menu  
Close  
search  
For Everyone  
About About National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System  
What is Case Surveillance?  
Case Surveillance Modernization  
Infectious Disease Tables  
Non-Infectious Disease Data  
Technical Resource Center  
Case Surveillance in Action  
Contact Us  
View All  
Related Topics  
NDC Application  
View All  
National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS)  
About About National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System  
What is Case Surveillance?  
Case Surveillance Modernization  
Infectious Disease Tables  
Non-Infectious Disease Data  
Technical Resource Center  
Case Surveillance in Action  
Contact Us  
View All  
April 16, 2021  
Case Definitions  
Message Mapping Guides  
Supporting Documents for Implementation  
Event Codes & Other Surveillance Resources  
Cancer  
2010 Case Definition  
Cancer  
2010 Case Definition  
NOTE:  
A surveillance case definition is a set of uniform criteria used to define a disease for public health surveillance. Surveillance case definitions enable public health officials to classify and count cases consistently across reporting jurisdictions. Surveillance case definitions are not intended to be used by healthcare providers for making a clinical diagnosis or determining how to meet an individual patient’s health needs.  
CSTE Position Statement(s)  
09-CD-01  
Clinical Description  
Cancer cases under national public health surveillance include:  
Incident invasive cancers at all sites with the exception of basal cell and squamous cell carcinoma of the skin;  
Incident  
in situ  
cancers at all sites with the exception of carcinoma  
in situ  
of the cervix uteri, or any intraepithelial neoplasia (cervical intraepithelial neoplasia [CIN], prostate intraepithelial neoplasia [PIN], etc.);  
Incident benign and borderline central nervous system tumors  
Laboratory Criteria For Diagnosis  
Pathological or cytological diagnosis  
Case Classification  
Confirmed  
A diagnosis of cancer (  
in situ  
or invasive) or central nervous system tumor (benign or borderline) by a recognized medical practitioner that includes the use of specific terms synonymous with cancer, including but not limited to: "cancer," "malignant," "carcinoma," "sarcoma," "leukemia," and "lymphoma,"  
OR  
Laboratory-confirmed cases are those that have a positive histology or cytology, or other positive microscopic confirmation\*.  
Comments  
\*Although more than 90 percent of cancer cases are confirmed microscopically, microscopic confirmation is not required for a confirmed or definite case.  
Incident cancer cases are classified according to primary anatomic site (topography) and cellular characteristics (morphology including histology, behavior, and grade) using the International Classification of Diseases for Oncology, Third Edition (ICD-O-3).  
Back to Top  
Sources  
Print  
Share  
Facebook  
LinkedIn  
Twitter  
Syndicate  
Content Source:  
Case Definitions  
Message Mapping Guides  
Supporting Documents for Implementation  
Event Codes & Other Surveillance Resources  
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NNDSS receives and shares case data from state, local, and territorial health departments to help public health monitor, control, and prevent serious diseases.  
View All  
About About National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System  
What is Case Surveillance?  
Case Surveillance Modernization  
Infectious Disease Tables  
Non-Infectious Disease Data  
Technical Resource Center  
Case Surveillance in Action  
Contact Us  
View All  
Sign up for Email Updates  
Contact CDC  
Organization  
Policies  
Web Policies  
Languages  
Languages  
Español  
Language Assistance  
Archive  
CDC Archive  
Public Health Publications  
Contact Us  
About CDC  
Organization  
Policies  
Web Policies  
Languages  
Languages  
Español  
Language Assistance  
Archive  
CDC Archive  
Public Health Publications  
HHS.gov  
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